

INDIA'S MISERY.

No Human Organization Now Can Cope With the Situation.

CONDITION OF NATIVE STATES.

Officials Have Neither Charity Nor Money, and People Die by Thousands—American Help Welcome. Whole Country a Dry, Waterless Waste—Cholera is Everywhere.

SIMLA, May 24.—The situation in India has now unfortunately assumed a complexion far more dark and gloomy than even the most dismal of pessimists would have ventured to foretell a few short months ago. The widespread misery, suffering, and death occasioned by the great famine which devastates the land, distress and suffering so widespread as to have got beyond the power of any human organization adequately to cope with it, have now been increased tenfold in certain parts of India by the outbreak of an epidemic of cholera of so virulent and deadly a type that hundreds of people are dying daily from this terrible scourge in a score of districts.

This is the sole cause of the stationary nature of the famine returns. For some weeks now the total number of people on relief has fluctuated between five and a half and six millions, while the number of people actually affected by the famine has remained steady at about one hundred millions. At the first glance one might think from these figures that the climax of distress had been reached, and that within the next few weeks we might hope for a very considerable reduction in the numbers of those on relief. Such, however, is not the case. All the principal afflicted provinces continue to show increasing numbers on relief, with the exception of the Bombay presidency. Here alone there is a diminution of numbers.

Cholera the Reason.

Yet it is in this very province that the distress is most acute, the mortality most severe. Cholera is the reason. More than a month ago this terrible scourge broke out in the relief camps of the Godhara district. The people, emaciated by weeks and months of semi-starvation, for they do not come to the relief camps until they are in a practically starving condition, fell ready victims to the epidemic, and died literally like flies. The survivors, blinded by terror, fled far and wide, carrying with them in all directions the fatal germs which were soon to spread the disease over an area which can only be measured in thousands of square miles. In one great relief camp on the borders of the native territories of Kathiawar, out of 20,000 workers but 4,000 were left after the first few days of the presence of cholera. The remainder had fled to their homes, many being stricken down and dying on the way. In their homes they will be beyond the reach of famine relief, and they will die in any case of starvation if cholera does not step in and afford a merciful, because swift, release from the terrible pangs of hunger.

The origin of this fearful outbreak of cholera is lost in obscurity. The disease is always present in many parts of India during the hot weather months, but if the people are healthy and in good water, it seldom assumes an epidemic form. This year, however, all the conditions are in favor of the progress and extension of the disease. The people are in the lowest of physical condition, many of them mere skin and bone, as weak as they can well be, and with no sort of stamina whatever. Those who do not go to the relief camps have for weeks been living on food which can only be described as little better than offal. Melons, which at this season of the year are to be had everywhere in great numbers in India, are the worst form of food when cholera is about. But it is melons which, despite all warning, the people consume in large quantities.

Streams Are Dried Up.

As to water, the prolonged drought has dried up the majority of streams and wells, and the remainder are so low that only the foulest water remains in them. Tanks and streams have also been defiled by the presence in great numbers of the putrefying carcasses of both men and animals, the former either buried a few inches deep in the banks or deliberately thrown into the river after the manner of the Hindus. Thus every condition was in favor of a high rate of mortality and a rapid spread of the terrible epidemic which is now devastating a large portion of Western India.

From all sides come pitiful accounts of the condition of things. In some of the remotest districts people are literally dying by hundreds, in their homes, by the road-side, struck down by cholera, or killed by starvation. The vultures and jackals are gorged with the unaccustomed feast, and dead bodies lie

unburied for days together on the ground.

Everything which can be done by the officers of the government, the missionaries, and other willing helpers is being done. Many devoted officials are literally wearing themselves out in their endeavors to help the people of their districts, while the conduct of the many missionaries scattered over the afflicted tracts is beyond all praise. But the work is too great to be thoroughly got in hand; the area afflicted is too wide, the villages too remote and scattered for relief to be afforded in all cases. And the people themselves, by their listlessness, the fatalism, their utter inattention to the most ordinary sanitary or dietetic precautions, place stumbling blocks in the way of their would-be saviors and pave the way to their own speedy destruction.

Government Cannot Do More.

It was the proud endeavor of the government of Lord Curzon when this famine began to see to it that no single human was avoided. But events have proved that this aim was altogether too exalted. The unparalleled extent of the disaster which has overtaken the land is only now beginning to be thoroughly appreciated as reports continue to come in from the outlying tracts. All that can be done is being done. Money is being spent like water, the officers of the government are wearing themselves to the bone, the missionaries are doing splendid service. But the task is too great, the evil too widespread. All that can be done is to continue to work at the same high pressure, to do the best possible. More cannot be achieved.

But though the condition of affairs in the northern portion of the Bombay Presidency is probably the worst and most terrible in the country, there are other districts where things are almost as bad. Further up the line of rail which runs from Ahmedabad to northern India, there lies the small oasis of British territory known as Ajmer, surrounded on all sides by the native states of Rajputana.

I have before me as I write the letter of an eye witness, who has recently been visiting this part of the country, and his report reveals a condition of affairs but little better than that which obtains on the Bombay side. The whole country is a dry, waterless waste. A fierce sun beats down all day, the temperature reaching 110 degrees and more in the shade. A strong wind, carrying with it the burning sands of the desert, which lies to the north, sweeps across the plain. Here and there one may see a single patch of green, the carefully tended crop of some fortunate peasant, whose well has not yet run dry. Everything else is desolate, miserable, barren, with nothing more than a scarcely perceptible stubble to mark how the young shoots of corn were blighted in their early growth. The railway stations are blocked with the long lines of cars, which bring in grain from the more favored portions of India. There are also strings of cars laden with hides, for cattle have perished literally by the million, and continue to die in countless thousands as each week succeeds the other.

Distress in Towns Hidden.

In Ajmer itself, the headquarters of the district, you search in vain, as you may in most other British towns, for traces of the awful distress which is tearing out the heart of the people. Poor emaciated wanderers come flocking in from the native states; food and shelter await them without the city walls. For the aged poor and the starving there is the poorhouse, for the able-bodied, public works.

But over all relief institutions in this district deadly, swiftly, fall disease hangs like a pall. Cholera is everywhere. In ten days nearly four hundred people fell dead in one camp alone.

Can anything be more terrible than the lot of the famine-stricken in a cholera camp? On the one hand death, in its most terrible form, striking remorselessly, indiscriminately, on the other hand suffering and starvation, but the chance of escape. Small wonder that panic does set in when the dread enemy appears, scattering the people far and wide, spreading the disease, littering the roadsides and the fields with dead and dying.

But it is not in British territory that the worst features are to be seen. In districts remote from the railway, far removed from the watchful eye of the British political agent, and where the native administration is probably bankrupt alike in charity and money, the grim realities of the situation are met face to face. The distress is awful, all the crops have failed, 50 per cent or more of the cattle have perished; the roads are blocked with carts laden with hides and lined with the skeletons of those who have fallen by the way.

The contrast from the situation in British territory is immense. In the latter the people on famine works are in fairly good condition. Full provision is made for the treatment of the sick, and the crisis is being well and bravely met. Cross the border into native territory and you find confusion, caligines, and the most intense suffering. Thousands of people are starving, and

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"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I had female trouble, painful menses, and kidney complaint, also stomach trouble. About a year ago I happened to pick up a paper that contained an advertisement of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and when I read how it had helped others, I thought it might help me, and decided to give it a trial. I did so, and as a result am now feeling perfectly well. I wish to thank you for the benefit your medicine has been to me."—Mrs. CLARA STRIDER, Diller, Neb.

No More Pain

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Your Vegetable Compound has been of much benefit to me. When my menses first appeared they were very irregular. They occurred too often and did not leave for a week or more. I always suffered at these times with terrible pains in my back and abdomen. Would be in bed for several days and would not be exactly rational at times. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and menses became regular and pains left me entirely."—Mrs. E. F. CUSTEN, Brule, Wis.

not the slightest effort is being made to relieve them. The people are reduced to eating the bark of trees, a diet which brings on the most terrible forms of dysentery. Everything is utterly neglected, and the people die by thousands.

MIDNIGHT BRIEFS.

DIED.—Mrs. Katherine Lott Clemens, wife of Wm. M. Clemens, the author, died suddenly Wednesday morning, of heart trouble, at Hackensack, N. J.

PROSTRATIONS.—Three more deaths and several prostrations from heat were reported yesterday at Pittsburgh. Cloudy skies and a good breeze kept down the temperature in the afternoon to 82 degrees.

RELEASED.—Captain John Powers, of Barberville, Ky., who was arrested yesterday on the charge of complicity in the murder of Governor Goebel, was released on habeas corpus proceedings based on a pardon given by Governor Taylor.

ARRIVED.—Among the passengers who arrived yesterday morning at New York per steamer Bremen, from Bremen and Southampton, were Mrs. Crane and daughter, who accompany the remains of Stephen Crane, who died abroad on June 5th.

FIXED.—The California packers company has finally arranged with the California Fruit Association (the prunes men's combine) for handling the coming crop. The fixing of prices is left to the directors of the association. There will be no bonus of the foreign exports.

PRECAUTION.—The board of health has decided to thoroughly disinfect the Chinese quarters in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Coney Island, as a measure of precaution against the plague. The board of estimate to-day appropriated \$20,000 for the work which will be immediately begun.

BOASTS.—Edward Hanlan, coach of the Columbia crew, boldly asserts that he stands ready to wager that the Columbia Varsity crew would win. "I'll bet Mr. Courtney or Mr. Ward," he said in the presence of the Associated Press correspondent, "anything they please that my Varsity eight will beat theirs, and that means that I'll win the race."

LEAVES.—General Chaffee, who has been ordered to command the American troops in China, left Washington at 10:40 o'clock this morning for San Francisco, accompanied by Lieutenant Harper, his aide. He is due at San Francisco at 5 o'clock Sunday morning and sails for Nagasaki on the transport Grant with the sixth cavalry on the same day.

SAILED.—The steamship St. Paul sailed Wednesday from New York for Southampton with over 300 passengers in the first cabin. The list includes Senator Chauncey M. Depew, Lieutenant Governor Timothy L. Woodruff, Mrs. Charles Emory Smith, wife of the postmaster general, General George F. Shady and the Misses Wilson, daughters of the secretary of agriculture.

INTERESTED.—Much interest was aroused among the American soldiers at Havana by the Associated Press dispatch announcing the fact that probably half the troops will leave Cuba during the next few months. The rumor here that the Second Infantry will leave within the next ten days, as soon as a transport is available and go direct to China is generally believed. Governor

General Wood, however, denies all knowledge of the report and it seems that an officer of the regiment received a private cable dispatch from a friend to that effect.

RETURNED.—Among the passengers who arrived yesterday at New York per steamer Prinz Wilhelm 5th from Port Au Prince, etc., were Captain George Campbell, of the wrecked steamer Carinthia, and twenty-three men who had charge of the mules on the Carinthia. Captain Campbell is returning to his home at Liverpool. The muleteers were sent here by the United States consul at Port Au Prince.

ENDED.—Except for the boycott and 300 extra policemen on duty in St. Louis little remains to tell of the strike of the St. Louis Transit Company's employees, inaugurated May 2. Cars are in operation on all the lines without hindrance and are well patronized except on those running north and south, where many thousand persons, because of the boycott and through sympathy for the strikers, patronize wagons and buses manned by ex-street railway employees.

KHEDIVE.—The Khedive of Egypt arrived in London at noon yesterday, from Port Victoria, where he had been since he reached England from Flushing June 21. He showed few signs of his recent illness. The traveler was received on the platform of the Charing Cross railroad station by the Duke of York, the Turkish ambassador Anthopala Pasha and suite, a guard of honor from the Cold-Stream Guards and a band, which played the Khedivial hymn.

LEAVE.—The President, Mrs. McKinley and party will leave for Canton, Ohio, in a private car attached to the regular 7:45 p. m. train on the Pennsylvania railroad Friday, the 29th instant. The President will be accompanied by Dr. Hixey, Secretary Cortelyou and Assistant Secretary Barnes. During the absence of Secretary Cortelyou, the executive office will be in charge of Assistant Secretary Pruden. Only the most important matters will be transmitted to Canton.

DECIDED.—Justice Alden Chester, of New York, Wednesday morning handed down his decision in the American Ice Company case, which is against the company on all points and vacates and sets aside the writs of prohibition issued by Justice D. Cady Herlick, which restrains Referee Myer Nusbaum from examining the officers of that company in the proceedings instituted against them before Justice Chase. Under this decision Referee Nusbaum can go on with his investigation of the company's affairs.

At Close Range.

Detroit Free Press: One of those quick and happy retorts that spring readily to the Yankee tongue was made by the young Detroitier who recently gave a most entertaining lecture upon his impressions of Greece.

He came back from abroad on an English vessel. Being genial and of an investigating turn of mind he was soon on terms of intimacy with all the officers. Because of the wars in which Britain and this country are respectively engaged, and divided opinions as to the merits of these controversies, earnest but good-natured discussions were of daily occurrence.

One afternoon most of the officers were present, and debate was running high, with the young Detroitier the only champion of America. He had his back to the wall, and kept his head like a veteran. He parried and thrust with such rapidity that his assailants were non-plussed as to the best mode of attack.

Finally the big engineer made this thrust: "Well, it begins to look to me as though there was no way but for England to go at it and lick your bloomin' country."

"What, again?" came quick as a flash and with laughing sarcasm. "I took a full minute to digest the two words. Then there was a hearty roar of English hilarity, and they patted the Detroitier admiringly on the back.

"In fighting and talking these Yankees are ugly customers," commented the engineer.

A Western Solomon.

San Francisco Wave: Texas has a Solomon in the person of Justice I. P. Franklin, of Brownville, known to the inhabitants as Josey. Recently two women, next door neighbors, came before the court, each claiming ownership of a hen worth about 25 cents. Josey heard the evidence and reserved decision. That evening at sunset he appeared with the duly accredited officers of the court, and with the object of debate shut in a box in the road before the houses of the claimants. Just at roosting time he turned Biddy loose; she shook her feathers, and made straight for her own perch. "You get the hen," said Josey to the successful claimant, and closed the case. This Josey, majestic and august, has won some recognition in Europe, and in the course of a few years the exportation seems likely to be of large proportions.

Child's City Editor.

The city editor of the Philadelphia Ledger was one of the bright newspaper men who went to Canada to help Graham. In expressing resentment of a remark made by a Canadian official regarding the royal prerogatives he exclaimed, with animation: "Oh! to hell with the queen!" This jest, majestic and august, has won some recognition in Europe, and in the course of a few years the exportation seems likely to be of large proportions.

France and Corn.

Buffalo Express: One of the consequences of the installation of a corn kitchen in the agricultural section of the United States exhibit at the Paris Exposition is a widespread agitation in France in favor of the appointment of a government commission to visit this country and ascertain the best means of introducing corn. This French majestic and august, has won some recognition in Europe, and in the course of a few years the exportation seems likely to be of large proportions.

Man and Wife in Distress.—Rev. Dr. Bohrer, of Buffalo, says: "My wife and I were both troubled with distressing Catarrh, but we have enjoyed freedom from this aggravating malady since the day we first used Dr. A. M. Ainslie's Catarrhal Powder. Its action was instantaneous, giving the most grateful relief within ten minutes after its first application." Sold by Charles R. Goetze, corner Twelfth and Market streets—40

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